In the claims:

Please amend claims 26, 31 and 32, insert new claim 34, and cancel claim 30 as shown in the following listing of the entire claims in the Application.

Claims 1 - 14 (Canceled)

Claims 15 – 25 (Canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method for producing viral particles comprising the following steps:

a) provision of a human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) in whose genome an essential gene has been deleted,

b) provision ~~transfection~~ of a stably transfected mammalian cell line which expresses the HCMV gene deleted in a),

c) replication of the gene-deleted virus from a) in cells from b),

d) infection of mammalian cells ~~with~~ with a virus which has been replicated as in steps a) - c),

e) isolation of viral particles from cells which have been infected as in step d), wherein

f) the particles are surrounded by a lipid membrane in which viral glycoproteins are embedded, and

g) the particles contain neither viral DNA nor capsids, and wherein the HCMV in step a) harbors a deletion in the gene of the major capsid protein (UL86).

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the stably transfected mammalian cell line is human foreskin fibroblasts.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the mammalian cells are transfected with the aid of a lipid-containing reagent.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the mammalian cells are transfected by the FuGENE ® transfection reagent.

30. (cancel)

31. (currently amended) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising sub-viral particles and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the sub-viral particles are released after infection of mammalian cells by human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) wherein,

a) the particles are surrounded by a lipid membrane in which viral glycoproteins are embedded,

b) the particles contain neither viral DNA nor capsids, and wherein

c) the sub-viral ~~particles~~ particle additionally contain a fusion protein comprising one or more parts of the T-cell antigen pp65 (UL83) and one or more parts of one or more proteins which are not pp65.

32. (currently amended) The composition of claim 31, wherein the sub-viral particles contain parts of viral glycoprotein gB and/or gH ~~proteins~~ which are variants of a particular glycoprotein from different HCMV strains.

33. (previously presented) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising the viral particles of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

34. (new) A composition for immunization against HCMV diseases and infections comprising pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and viral particles produced according to claim 26, and wherein the viral particles additionally contain a fusion protein comprising one or more parts of the T-cell antigen pp65 (UL83) and one or more parts of one or more proteins which are not pp65.